

CLAIMS

1. A cargo cover storage system for a vehicle having a cargo bay, wherein the cargo bay is at least partially defined by opposed sidewalls, the system comprising:

5 first and second rigid-cover members adapted to cooperate with each other in at least partially covering and at least partially uncovering the cargo bay; and

first and second bracket assemblies connectable and disconnectable from one of the sidewalls and configured to attach said cover members to said one of the  
10 sidewalls in a stored position wherein the cargo bay is at least partially uncovered.

2. The cargo cover storage system of claim 1, wherein said bracket assemblies are configured to attach said cover members in the stored position such that said cover members are not touching each other.

3. The cargo cover storage system of claim 1, wherein said bracket assemblies are connectable and disconnectable from said one of the sidewalls by a plurality of releasable fasteners.

4. The cargo cover system of claim 1, wherein each cover member has opposed sides and opposed ends;

wherein said bracket assemblies each include two parallel cover retention  
5 members; and

wherein each cover retention member of the first bracket assembly is configured to secure one end of one cover member and each cover retention member of

the second bracket assembly is configured to secure a respective opposed end of said one  
10 cover member.

5. The cargo cover system of claim 4, wherein each cover retention member of the first bracket assembly and each cover retention member of the second bracket assembly is further configured to secure one side of said one cover member.

6. The cargo cover system of claim 5, wherein each cover retention member of the first bracket assembly is formed with a slot matable with said one end and said one side; and

5 wherein each cover retention member of the second bracket assembly is formed with a slot matable with said respective opposed end and said one side.

7. The cargo cover system of claim 1, further comprising:

a third rigid cover member adapted to cooperate with said first and second cover members in covering and uncovering the cargo bay; and

5 third and fourth bracket assemblies connectable and disconnectable from the opposed sidewall and configured to attach said third cover member to said opposed sidewall in a stored position wherein the cargo bay is further uncovered.

8. The cargo cover system of claim 7, wherein said third and fourth bracket assemblies are connectable and disconnectable from said opposed sidewall by a plurality of releasable fasteners.

9. The cargo cover system of claim 8, wherein said third cover member has opposed sides and opposed ends;

wherein the third and fourth bracket assemblies each include a cover  
5 retention member; and

wherein the third bracket assembly cover retention member is configured  
to secure one end of said third cover member and the fourth bracket assembly cover  
retention member is configured to secure the opposed end of said third cover member.

10. The cargo cover system of claim 9, wherein said cover retention  
members of said third and fourth bracket assemblies are further configured to secure one  
side of said third cover member.

11. The cargo cover system of claim 10, wherein said cover retention  
member of said third bracket assembly is formed with a slot matable with said one end  
and said one side of the third cover member; and

5 wherein said cover retention member of said fourth bracket assembly is  
formed with a slot matable with said opposed end and said one side of the third cover  
member.

12. A cargo cover storage system comprising:

three rigid cover members adapted to cooperate with each other in at least  
partially covering and at least partially uncovering a vehicle cargo bay;

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first and second bracket assemblies connectable and disconnectable from a  
sidewall of the vehicle, wherein the sidewall at least partially defines the vehicle cargo  
bay and the first and second bracket assemblies are configured to attach two of said cover  
members in a position parallel to the sidewall; and

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third and fourth bracket assemblies connectable and disconnectable from an opposed sidewall of the vehicle, wherein the opposed sidewall further defines the vehicle cargo bay and the third and fourth bracket assemblies are configured to attach one of said cover members in a position parallel to the opposed sidewall;

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wherein said first and second bracket assemblies each include two parallel cover retention members, wherein said third and fourth bracket assemblies each include one cover retention member;

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wherein each cover retention member is formed with a slot matable with one cover member; and

wherein said one cover member has opposed ends and opposed sides and wherein said slot is matable with one of the ends and one of the sides.

13. A method of storing a cargo cover for a vehicle having a cargo bay, wherein the cargo bay is at least partially defined by opposed sidewalls, wherein the cargo cover includes cover members adapted to cooperate with each other to at least partially cover and uncover the cargo bay, the method comprising:

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disconnecting said cover members from the vehicle such that the cargo bay is at least partially uncovered; and

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connecting said cover members to at least one of the sidewalls via at least two bracket assemblies such that the cargo bay remains at least partially uncovered.

14. The method of claim 13, wherein each of said bracket assemblies is collapsible and extendable and further including:

5                   extending each of said bracket assemblies from a collapsed position to an extended position.

15.     The method of claim 14, the method further comprising:

collapsing each of said bracket assemblies.

16.     The method of claim 13, further including:

5                   disconnecting one of said bracket assemblies from said at least one of the sidewalls;

removing at least one cover member from contact with another of said bracket assemblies;

10                  disconnecting said another of said bracket assemblies from said at least one of the sidewalls; and

connecting said at least one cover member to the vehicle such that the cargo bay is at least partially covered.

17.     The method of claim 13, wherein the vehicle includes at least one storage compartment, and the method further comprising:

storing said bracket assemblies in said at least one storage compartment.

18.     The method of claim 13, wherein said connecting comprises connecting said cover members in a position parallel to the sidewalls.